EDUCATION (IRELAND).

ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1858–9.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK
EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereto, submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

We beg to report to your Excellency, that in consequence of representations of the necessity for increased accommodation made to us by the Masters of Enniskillen and Dungannon Royal Schools, as well as by certain Members of this Board, we have within the last year expended considerable sums in making, under the superintendence of our architect, additions, alterations, and improvements to the buildings of these endowments.

At Armagh, Banagher, and Cavan Royal Schools we have also undertaken such repairs and alterations as were reported to us to be required, and the funds at our disposal enabled us to sanction, and these establishments may now be considered as being in a very satisfactory condition. At the Endowed Schools of private foundation we have made such outlay as the necessity of each and the funds belonging to them seemed to justify.

The periodical returns made to us by the respective Schoolmasters show that a course of instruction more generally useful, and more suited to the requirements of the present times, has been adopted in most of them.

Of the Royal Schools, that of Enniskillen, judging from the numbers in attendance, appears to be the most generally appreciated by the public; but we have reason to believe that a very useful practical course of education is imparted to the pupils of the Royal Schools generally.

The Royal Scholarships founded by us in Trinity College, to which Pensioners and Sizars only are eligible (Fellow Commoners being excluded from them), have we believe been productive of much good; they are obtained solely as rewards of merit after a severe competitive examination, by Fellows of the College, in a course specially selected by us, and from time to time varied by the introduction of

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

of different subjects; they become forfeited should the holders fail in obtaining in each year of their under-graduate course a certain number of honours, as required by our rules; and we reserve to ourselves power to increase the annual amount payable to such Exhibitioners as shall have during the preceding year been eminently successful in their collegiate career. The necessity for positive merit in the candidates for appointment to these valuable distinctions, and for continuous and successful exertion, to enable the holders to retain them, is stated to us to add much to their value in an educational point of view. And we have reason to believe that were it not for the pecuniary aid supplied by these Exhibitions, many young men of distinguished abilities and acquirements would have been obliged to relinquish the advantages of an University education; and we beg to append to this our Report a copy of our most recent Regulations in reference to these Exhibitioners, of whom the following is a list, with the annual amounts payable to each at the present time.

Armagh Royal School—

J. Boxwell	£. 50 per annum.
C. W. Riggs	25 ,,
A. J. Doblin	20 ,,
C. Crossle	50 ,,
R. Rice	30 ,,
A. G. Gibson	25 ,,

Cavan Royal School—

T. W. Kinahan	£. 25 per annum.

Dungannon Royal School—

J. Rowley	£. 50 per annum.
C. Twigg	50 ,,
J. Cluff	50 ,,
F. W. Swan	40 ,,
F. Crofton	50 ,,
J. Corvan	30 ,,
J. T. Mooney	30 ,,

Enniskillen Royal School—

R. Irvine	£. 50 per annum.
T. Allingham	50 ,,
H. L. Smith	50 ,,
D. E. C. Dickson	30 ,,
W. Quinton	20 ,,
T. Brett	50 ,,
M. Hime	30 ,,
W. J. Bryan	20 ,,
J. J. Beatty	20 ,,

At the suggestion of one of the Members of the Board, and at the request of the Master, we decided on granting at Raphoe Royal School certain money prizes, open to competition by the students of that School at an examination to be held there by parties wholly unconnected with the School; and we have to state

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

state to your Excellency, that in consequence of the very favourable report of the Examiner, who had been a Fellow of Trinity College, we selected three boys as recipients for these prizes.

The subject of the School Exhibitions at Enniskillen Royal School, and various schemes for modifying them, have been much discussed by the Members of the Board; but we are not as yet enabled to report to your Excellency the final arrangements in reference to them.

The condition of the Diocesan Schools and School-houses, we regret to be obliged to report, continues in the same unsatisfactory state as we have felt it our duty from time to time to bring specially under the notice of the Executive Government.

The Estates which form the endowment of the respective Royal Schools are, we have to report, in a much more satisfactory condition than heretofore, especially that of Enniskillen, which had been placed under the superintendence of a Member of this Board, who is practically acquainted with such matters, and who has devoted much time and attention to this subject; and we have to report that we have made arrangements by which we hope that we shall soon be enabled on this estate to establish another School for the benefit of the children of the tenantry. Since our last Annual Report, we have completed all arrangements in connexion with the new line of road, and bridges made on the Dungannon School Estate for the convenience of the tenants attending the neighbouring market towns. And we beg also to report that we have brought to a conclusion with the Board of Works the different matters in reference to the lowering Lough Neagh to a permanent summer level, which were under the consideration of the arbitrators; and we have further to report to your Excellency that we have made, with the Directors of the Newry and Armagh Railway Company, satisfactory arrangements for the transfer to them of such portions of the Armagh School Estate as were required for that undertaking.

All which we beg most respectfully to submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, C. (L.S.)
F. BLACKBURNE. (L.S.)
ROBERT SHAW, Bart. (L.S.)
RICHARD MACDONNELL, Provost T.C.D. (L.S.)
WILLIAM GIBSON. (L.S.)
ACHESON LYLE. (L.S.)
PLUNKET TUAM, &c. (L.S.)
JOS. H. MEATH. (L.S.)

8, Clare-street, Dublin,
27 July 1859.

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D.
Secretary.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

1 8 5 8.

REGULATIONS of the "Commissioners of Education in Ireland," as to the Royal Scholars.

"THE Commissioners of Education in Ireland" have founded 30 exhibitions, called "Royal Scholarships," for students who shall enter Trinity College from the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, or Cavan, viz., five Scholarships of 50 *l.* per annum each for Armagh School; and five of 50 *l.* per annum, and five of 30 *l.* per annum for each of the Schools of Dungannon and Enniskillen; and five of 25 *l.* per annum for Cavan School.

These Scholarships can be obtained by such students only as have been at least three years in all, previous to their entrance into Trinity College, pupils in some one or other of the Royal Schools. It is not, however, hereby intended to prevent pupils from moving from one of them to another; but the Scholarships founded for the respective Schools of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, and Cavan, can be obtained only by students who have entered the University from the Schools for which such Scholarships have been founded.

The Scholarships to be tenable for five years from the time of their being obtained, subject to certain conditions hereafter mentioned.

The Provost and Senior Fellows have signified their willingness to appoint Examiners in each year, to examine on the first convenient day after the November entrance, such students as shall have entered from the said four Royal Schools, and shall offer themselves as candidates for these Scholarships.

The examination will be in the course recently prescribed for entrance into T. C. D. (omitting Virgil's Æneid, Xenophon, and Lucian)—In Stanford's Selections from Plato—and in passages taken from such Greek and Latin authors as are not parts of the T. C. D. entrance course.

In translating French into English.

In such a knowledge of English Literature, and the history of English Literature, as may be derived from the first six books of Milton's Paradise Lost, Johnson's Lives of Milton, Dryden, Addison, Swift, and Pope, and two of Shakespeare's plays, viz.—Macbeth, and a Midsummer Night's Dream.

In History—

Ancient—as contained in the Old and New Testaments.

Grecian—that published by William Smith.

Roman—Keightley's Roman Republic and Empire, down to the accession of Commodus.

English—Keightley's Elementary English History.

The examination will be carried on mainly by means of written papers— the examination in History will be conducted *vivâ voce*—and in addition to the examination by papers in the various authors, each Examiner may, at his discretion, examine the candidate *vivâ voce* in one author.

N.B.—The special course will be from time to time varied.

The proficiency of the candidates in Greek, Latin, and English Composition will be particularly inquired into; and also their knowledge of the rules of Greek and Latin Versification, with their skill in making verses in both languages. Especial attention being given to Ancient and Modern History and Geography, as contained in the works specified.

No Fellow Commoner can be admitted as a candidate for a Royal Scholarship.

No Pensioner shall be admitted as a candidate for a Royal Scholarship, who shall not have remained at one of the Royal Schools, to which the Scholarships are attached, till the October or November entrance examination in T. C. D. immediately preceding the examination for Royal Scholarships at which he may be a candidate.

No Sizar shall be admitted as a candidate, who shall not have remained at such Royal School till the Sizarship entrance examination immediately preceding the examination for Royal Scholarships at which he may be a candidate.

No student who shall have attained twenty years of age shall be permitted to become a candidate for a Royal Scholarship.

No student shall be elected a Royal Scholar unless he shall have previously to the examination for Royal Scholarships, lodged with the Secretary of the Board, a certificate signed by the master of the Royal School from which he shall have entered T. C. D., stating that such candidate is duly qualified according to the rules of the Commissioners.

The

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

The candidates from each School shall be examined together, and a return made to the Commissioners of their positive merit; and also an arrangement of the candidates according to their answering, without any distinction of Schools; the Commissioners reserving to themselves the power of suspending or diminishing one or more Scholarships, if sufficient merit has not been shown by the candidate.

In cases of equality of merit in all other respects, the poverty of a candidate will be taken into consideration. A student who has once been a candidate cannot be eligible on a subsequent occasion.

Students when appointed to these Scholarships may retain them for five years from the time of their election; provided that, proceeding regularly with their respective classes, they obtain in each year of their under-graduate course one honour of the first rank, or two honours of the second rank. The election itself to one of these Scholarships being reckoned as equivalent to one honour of the second rank, obtained in the Junior Freshman year; a Moderatorship as an honour of the first rank in the Senior Sophister year; and an University Scholarship, in whatever year obtained, as equivalent to an honour of the first rank at the term examination in that year.

A Royal Scholarship shall become forfeited by the holder of it incurring any heavy collegiate censure, such as public admonition, or rustication; or when all the examinations of any year have elapsed without his having obtained in that year one honour of the first rank, or two honours of the second rank, or that which is stated in the preceding regulation as equivalent to these honours.

The exhibitions become due half-yearly, viz., on the 1st of May, and on the 1st of November. Payments will be made in May to such students only as have obtained in the preceding part of that year at least one honour of the second rank. A half-yearly payment held over in May, will be made in November, provided an honour has been obtained in the mean-time; and a payment for the year will be made in November to such students as shall have, between the 1st of May, and 1st November, fulfilled all the requisites for the year.

In cases where very distinguished merit has been shown during their under-graduate course by students holding Scholarships of 30 *l.* yearly, and where Scholarships for the same School remain suspended, or have been forfeited, the Commissioners will, at the close of each year, receive memorials from such distinguished students, for an increase of their stipend.

RESOLUTION of the Board of Trinity College, Dublin, adopted in compliance with the wishes of "The Commissioners of Education in Ireland."

Resolved,—That the Scholars appointed from the Royal Schools by "The Commissioners of Education in Ireland," be permitted to wear velvet caps, and that their names be inserted on the College books, immediately after the names of the University scholars, without, however, altering their degree of seniority amongst their class-fellows.

MIDDLETON SCHOOL.

"The Commissioners of Education in Ireland" will grant annually two prizes, one of 30 *l.* and one of 20 *l.*, to such Junior Freshmen as shall, subject to the rules prescribed for the Royal Schools, have entered Trinity College, Dublin, from Middleton School; and having been examined along with and in the same course as the candidate for the Royal Scholarships, shall be recommended by the Examiners as deserving candidates."

William Cotter Kyle, LL. D.,
Secretary to the Commissioners of Education in Ireland.

8, Clare-street, 1 December 1858.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit